

House Bill 278, or The Education Act, requires all students to take a college-readiness or career-readiness assessment (CCRA) to earn a high school diploma. The approved college-readiness assessments are the ACT and the SAT; the approved career-readiness assessment is WorkKeys. This document provides an overview of each assessment to assist students, their families, and educators in choosing an assessment that best fits a student's post-secondary path.

Career-Readiness: WorkKeys

Students in Alaska are required to take three WorkKeys assessments: Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information. Each assessment has 33 items; the assessments are timed (paper/pencil 45 minutes per assessment, Internet Version 55 minutes).

Applied Mathematics	This assessment measures the skills people use when they apply mathematical reasoning, critical thinking, and problem-solving techniques to work-related problems. The test questions require the examinee to set up and solve the types of problems and do the types of calculations that typically occur in the workplace. This test is designed to be taken with a calculator. A formula sheet that includes all formulas required for the assessment is provided.
Locating Information	This assessment measures the skill people use when they work with workplace graphics. Examinees are asked to find information in a graphic or insert information into a graphic. They also must compare, summarize, and analyze information found in related graphics. Students are asked to locate, synthesize, and use information from workplace graphics such as charts, graphs, tables, forms, flowcharts, diagrams, floor plans, maps, and instrument gauges.
Reading for Information	The <i>Reading for Information</i> test measures the skill people use when they read and use written text in order to do a job. The written texts include memos, letters, directions, signs, notices, bulletins, policies, and regulations. <i>Reading for Information</i> materials do not include information that is presented graphically, such as in charts, forms, or blueprints.

College-Readiness: ACT

The ACT is a national college admissions test that provides college-readiness information to students, families, and post-secondary institutions. There are five required subtests: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing test.

English	75 questions	45 minutes	Measures standard written English and rhetorical skills.
Mathematics	60 questions	60 minutes	Measures mathematical skills students have typically acquired in courses taken up to the beginning of grade 12.
Reading	40 questions	35 minutes	Measures reading comprehension.
Science	40 questions	35 minutes	Measures the interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills required in the natural sciences.
Writing Test	1 prompt	30 minutes	Measures writing skills emphasized in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses. Includes an essay.

College-Readiness: SAT

The SAT is a college admission test that provides college-readiness information to students, families and colleges. Students are required to take the three sections in the SAT: Mathematics, Critical Reading, and Writing.

Mathematics	70 minutes total: one 20 minute section, two 25 minute sections.	<p>The mathematics questions require students to apply mathematical concepts and to use data literacy skills in interpreting tables, charts, and graphs. They cover skills in four major areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers and operations • Algebra and functions • Geometry and measurement • Data analysis, statistics, and probability
	10 student produced responses; answer choices are not given, students solve and “grid in” answers.	
	44 multiple choices questions.	
Critical Reading	70 minutes total: one 20 minute section, two 25 minute sections	<p>The critical reading questions are all multiple choice. They can have one of two formats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence completion • Passage-based reading with long and short excerpts from works in natural sciences, humanities, social sciences, and literary fiction <p>The questions assess students' reading skills, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying main and supporting ideas • Determining the meaning of words in context • Understanding the authors’ purpose • Understanding the structure and function of sentences
	48 passage-based reading questions.	
	19 sentence completion questions.	
Writing	60 minutes total: one 10 minute section, two 25 minute sections	<p>The writing section consists of two types of questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An essay • Multiple-choice questions <p>The multiple-choice questions ask students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize sentence errors • Choose the best version of a piece of writing • Improving paragraphs
	25 improving sentences questions.	
	18 identifying errors in sentences questions.	
	6 improving paragraphs questions.	
	1 essay (present and support a point of view on topic).	